

On a collection of LEPIDOPTERA from Madagascar; by ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

I have recently had the pleasure of examining a collection forwarded to us by the Rev. R. Toy, and collected by his son at Antananarivo.

The following interesting species were amongst those selected:—

RHOPALOCERA.

Pseudonympha tamatavæ, Boisd.

Both sexes of this species appear to be common at Antananarivo.

Pseudonympha ankova (*Mycalesis ankova*, Ward).

Pseudonympha ibitina (*Mycalesis ibitina*, Ward).

In a recent paper in the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History," I have noted this species as coming from Fianarantsoa; I am, however, now convinced that the insect there indicated is a distinct species, although it agrees almost as well with Mr. Ward's description as that just received; I therefore append descriptions of both.

Pseudonympha ibitina.

Dark fuliginous brown, with darker submarginal line parallel to the outer margin, the margin itself blackish; primaries with a large subapical black ocellus, with two blue pupils and a rather broad deep orange iris; secondaries with two smaller rounded black ocelli, with single bluish-white pupils and narrow deep orange irides, upon the median interspaces; wings below with the basal three-fifths fuliginous brown, its outer edge oblique and slightly sinuous upon the primaries, triundulate upon the secondaries; disc greyish, with numerous brown striations; outer border of primaries more densely striated than the disc;

ocellus as above; secondaries with a large patch of fuliginous brown, with darker striations at centre of external border; ocelli very small, that upon the second median interspace barely visible, a third very small subapical ocellus. Expanse of wings $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Hab. Antananarivo.

We have two examples of this species.

Pseudonympha Wardii, n. sp.

♀ Paler than the preceding, ocellus of primaries with narrower iris and whiter pupils, an additional small blind ocellus upon the first median interspace, submarginal line more distinct; secondaries with the outer margin slightly undulated, the ocelli paler; a small additional subapical ocellus; submarginal line more distinct; primaries below much paler; secondaries fuliginous brown, the basal, abdominal and apical areas densely striated with grey; a spot before the middle of the costa, a large patch across the centre of costal area, and a spot near the end of the cell creamy-whitish, striated with dark brown; anal area broadly testaceous, striated with olive-brown; the ocelli upon the median interspaces feebly indicated and very small. Expanse of wings 1 inch 9 lines.

Hab. Fianarantsoa.

Allowing for the generally adopted method of measuring from tip to tip, this insect would be only two lines wider in expanse than *P. ibitina*, and this would be accounted for by its sex. The coloration of the undersurface of the secondaries scarcely agrees with Mr. Ward's description, but the latter was only intended to be provisional; however, now that we have a species of the exact size and the general coloration indicated in the description—"Hind wing with numerous waved markings of darker brown mingled with lighter brown, and the ocelli faintly showing;" it is evident that I allowed too wide a margin for the provisional nature of that description.

In my opinion, all diagnoses not accompanied by figures ought to be sufficiently precise to enable the student to decide, without hesitation, whether or not he has the species in his cabinet; otherwise they become rather a hindrance than a help to science, benefiting only their author, if indeed there is any personal profit in attaching one's name to that of a butterfly, which I for one do not admit.

P. Wardii, though it agrees in structure with *Pseudonympha* (excepting in the outline of the wing), has more nearly the aspect of the New World genus *Stibomorpha* than of anything else.

Ypthima batesii, Felder (? = *Y. vinsoni*, Guénée).

The description in Vinson's "Voyage à Madagascar" does not quite suit Felder's species, but nevertheless comes so near that I can hardly believe the two forms to be distinct species.

Mycalesis fraterna, Butler.

Both sexes are common in Madagascar, and differ constantly from the Mauritian form with which my species is associated in Kirby's catalogue.

Charaxes andara, Ward.

A fine male of this handsome species was in the collection; unfortunately it only has one antenna, but scientifically this is quite sufficient.

Junonia epicleria, Boisduval.

Almost too closely allied to the African form to be regarded as distinct.

Eurytela narinda, Ward.

Much like *E. dryope* on the upper surface.

Lycæna atrigemmata, Butler.

This little species will probably prove to be as common as the allied *L. knysna* of Trimen, it is a distinct and pretty little butterfly.

Belenois conia, n. sp.

Wings above white, with a tint of sulphur-yellow, primaries with the basal two-thirds of discoidal area salmon coloured; apex and four confluent triangular spots forming the external border, black; costal border grey, becoming blackish towards apex; secondaries with six decreasing squamose black spots terminating the veins; body grey; wings below pearly-white;

primaries with the costal border at base sulphur-yellow; basal two-thirds of discoidal area bright orange; secondaries with yellow costal margin, becoming bright orange towards the base; body white. Expanse of wings 2 inches 5 lines.

Allied to *B. thysa*.

Teracolus evanthe, Boisd.

Quite like African examples.

Proteides ramanatek, Boisd.

This barbarously named species has been referred erroneously to the genus *Ismene* (*Hesperia*, Fabr.), it, however, agrees both in structure and general pattern with *Proteides*.

Tagiades ophion, Boisd.

This belongs to the African group of the genus.

Hesperia margarita, n. sp.

Allied to *H. forestan*, with which it has been confounded, but readily distinguishable by the emerald green patch at the base of the primaries, and the coloration of the secondaries, in which the whole of the ochraceous area, excepting the anal border and fringe (which, however, are rather orange than ochreous) replaced by white, tinted with green. Expanse of wings 2 inches 3 lines.

Hesperia pansa, Hewits (= *ernesti*, Grand.).

This is a beautiful species, allied, though not very closely, to the preceding.

HETEROCERA.

Macroglossa milvus, Boisd.

Either the figure of this species is incorrect or the examples which I have seen are referable to a distinct species; Dr. Boisdual represents his species as having the secondaries orange, with a broad ferruginous border and four of the abdominal segments orange at the sides; the common *Macroglossa* of Madagascar has the outer border of secondaries dark brown,

with ferruginous inner edge, and only three of the abdominal segments are *taucny* at the sides; the anal tuft also has a ferruginous border; about half of the specimens seen by me have a transverse bar of snow-white scales along the anterior margin of the last segment.

Deilephila biguttata, Walker.

The collection contained a good series of this handsome moth; hitherto we have only possessed the type, a damaged ♂ example

Nephile charoba, Kirby.

A very variable species, the wings being of all sorts of shades between rust-red and dark smoky-brown.

Triptogon meander, Boisd.

A male of this very rare species, unfortunately somewhat damaged; the form of the primaries is somewhat aberrant for a *Triptogon*, so that eventually a genus may have to be erected for its reception.

Bizone amatura, Walker.

B. hova of Guénée is identical with this species.

Sozuza marginata, Guérin.

This is one of the prettiest of the Mascarene *Lithosiids*.

Borocera madagascariensis, Boisd.

There cannot be a question but that *B. Cajani* is the same species; Boisduval's figure is indeed rough, but it is just recognisable.

Cylogramma conturbans, Walker.

C. raboudou of Lucas is happily identical with this species, so that the latter name may be expunged.

Ophiodes hottentota, Guénée.

This agrees with S. African examples.

Hypochroma Grandidieri, n. sp.

Nearly allied to *H. nyctemerata* (*ruginaria*, Guénée), but the basal area sordid, the subbasal black line sharply defined, simply angulated instead of crinkled, the discocellulars black; the outer black line, limiting the dark area, much straighter; secondaries with the white patch upon the outer border reduced to a small spot. Expanse of wings 2 inches.

This is one of the not uncommon instances in which species from Madagascar nearly resemble those from Southern India and Ceylon.

Macaria deerraria (= *Tephria deerraria*, Walker).

Quite like African examples.

Comibæna stibolepida, n. sp.

Wings snow-white, densely mottled with dull bluish-green; a slightly arched testaceous stripe across the basal area, and an undulated discal stripe of the same colour; body whitish testaceous; wings below white, primaries with testaceous costal border; body white, legs red-brown above. Expanse of wings 11 lines.

Allied to *C. pieridoides*.

Sindris aganzini, Boisd.

This pretty little moth is not well represented by Boisduval; the abdomen is much more slender than in his figure, and has a much more fully developed anal tuft. M. Guénée refers it to his family *Scirpophagide* and places it amongst the *Tineites*.